

LATIN NOTES

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No. 7

NOTES ON THE ETHICAL CONTENT OF TWO ORATIONS OF CICERO COMMONLY READ IN HIGH SCHOOL

A. Pro Lege Manilia

Among the objectives in the teaching of Latin which the Classical League has proposed for discussion, is one which must meet with great general acceptance, "The development of right attitudes toward social situations," e. g., patriotism, honor, service, self-sacrifice, etc., and a broader understanding of governmental and social problems. To agree that this is one of our objectives does not imply that the teacher of Latin must set himself to give a course confined to personal and political ethics; if he teaches the prescribed work with due emphasis on the thought-content, the moral lessons will stand out in letters of fire.

Taking this objective as my text, I have noted some passages in two prescribed Ciceronian orations that may well impress ideals of civic and personal virtue upon the minds of our students. My topics are not exhaustive and certainly my references are not. Every teacher will find many equally pertinent passages to illustrate each topic. These notes are intended merely as a suggestion. I have begun with *Pro Lege Manilia*, since at this time of the year we are likely to be teaching this oration.

I. PATRIOTISM

We find in this oration a higher and a lower form of patriotism; the latter consisting in conventional and obvious boasting about military achievement and in a desire for vengeance; the former consisting in a solemn pride in Rome as the protector of her allies and dependents and as the mother of noble men.

1. Pride in military prowess

II.6. *in quo agitur... gloria... in re militari tradita est.*

V.12. *videte ne... conservare non posse.*

An element in this military pride is resentment of affront and military defeat. Vengeance for Mithridates' injuries is a motive for the prosecution of the war.

III.7. *delenda est vobis illa macula... concepta.*

V.11. *maiores nostri... relinquetis?*

IX.25. *sinite hoc loco... rumor adferret.*

The depredations of the pirates on Italian soil are a humiliation.

XVIII.55. *et eis temporibus non pudebat... reliquissent!*
(Compare XVII.53: *an tibi tum imperium... possemus.*)

2. The higher patriotism

Far nobler in tone than the foregoing, partially justifiable though that may be, is Cicero's love for his country as the protector of the weak and the parent of noble and generous men.

1) Rome the protector of her allies

II.6. *agitur salus sociorum... gesserunt.*

XII.31. *fuit hoc quondam... defendere.*

XVIII.55. *sed omnes socios... salvos praestare poteramus.*

2) Rome the exponent of noble character

XIV.41. *nunc... incipere credere... maluisse.*

II. THE PUBLIC OFFICIAL; HIS QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

1. Public office is a reward from the people for a record of diligence and faithfulness and involves an obligation to serve the people who have bestowed the honor.

I.2. *et meus labor... praescriberetis... et si quid auctoritatis... duxerunt.*

XXIV.69. *quicquid hoc beneficio... polliceor ac defero.*

XXIV.70. *honorem autem... consequemur.*

XXIV.71. *sed ego me... praeferre oportere.*

2. High character is an essential qualification for office.

1) Technical efficiency is not enough

X.27. *utinam Quirites... putaretis!*

XIII.36. *non enim bellandi virtus... virtutis.*

2) Incorruptibility (*innocentia*)

XIII.39. *hiemis enim... voluerunt.*

XIII.37. *quem enim imperatorem... reliquerit.*

XXII.65. *difficile est dictu... inferatur.*

XXIII.67. *videbat enim praetores... paucos.*

3) Self-control (*continentia* and *temperantia*)

XIX.40. *age vero... existimavit.*

(References on (2) and (3) are in many cases the same.)

4) Good faith (*fides*)

XIV.42. *fidem vero eius... iudicant.*

5) Humanity (*humanitas*)

To the allies:

XIV.41. *itaque omnes de caelo delapsus intuentur.*

XIV.41. *iam vero ita faciles... videatur.*

XXII.66. *noverunt enim sociorum vulnera... audiunt.*

To the foe:

XIV.42. *humanitate iam tanta... dilexerint.*

3. Supreme importance of service to state

XX.59. *quo minus certa est... virtute.*

4. The official is responsible not only to the people but to God.

XXIV.70. *testorque omnes deos... maxime perspicunt.*

III. SYMPATHY AND COOPERATION WITH FELLOW-CITIZENS AND WITH FOREIGNERS

1. With fellow-citizens. If the interests of any class are neglected, the whole state suffers.

XII.18. *est igitur humanitatis... seunctam esse non posse.*

VII.19. *non enim possunt... calamitatem.*

VII.19. *haec fides... concidant.*

2. With foreigners. A parallel may fairly be drawn between the *socii* of Rome and all foreigners with whom a modern nation has dealings

1) Selfish reason for cooperation. Disaster to the allies brings disaster to Rome.

VI.14. *quanto vos studio... vectigalibus agitur*

VI.14. *itaque haec vobis provincia... defendenda.*

VI.16. *putatisne vos... formidine liberatos.*

2) Unselfish reason for cooperation

V.13. *hi vos... diutissime commoratur.*

XIII.38. *itineris quae... fieri existimetis.*

XII.66. *noverunt enim... socios atque amicos.*

XXIII.68. *quare nolite dubitare... gaudeant.*

B. Pro Archia Poeta

I. THE PARAMOUNT DUTY OF UNSELFISH SERVICE

1. Service is the first requirement in a profession or political office.
I.1. *quod si haec vox...alios servare possumus.*
XI.28. *nam quas res nos...gessimus.*
2. Learning and culture must be used for service of others.
VI.12. *ceteros pudeat...retardarit.*
VI.13. *oratio et facultas...defuit.*

II. SYMPATHY AND FRIENDLINESS TOWARD FOREIGN NATIONS.

Cicero manifests what President Butler, in an address delivered in England last year (1923), called "the international mind." By this term he meant sympathy with foreigners and understanding of their point of view. It is quite consistent with the most ardent patriotism, and is totally different from "internationalism" or indifference to national divisions. Cicero combined the most loving devotion to Rome with a generous understanding of foreign civilizations and peoples.

1. Appreciation of foreign civilizations
III.4. *Antiochiae...adfluenti.*
IX.19. *ergo illi...expetunt.*
2. Appreciation of Greek language and literature
X.23. *nam si quis...continentur.*
X.24. *atque is tamen...obruisset.*

III. PATRIOTISM

1. Pride in Roman achievements and history, and gratitude to the authors who preserve this history in literary form
IX.19. *nos hunc vivum...celebrandam.*
2. Praise of Roman generals redounds to the glory of the Roman people as a whole.
IX.21. to X.22. *Mithridaticum vero bellum...de nostra civitate eiciemus.*

IV. ROMAN IDEALS OF CHARACTER

1. Veracity
IV.8. *adest vir...egisse dicit.*
IV.8. *et cum habeas...repudiare.*
V.9. *Metellus, homo sanctissimus...dixerit.*
2. Self-control
VII.15. *moderatos et graves.*
VII.16. *moderatissimos...continentissimos.*

V. THE VALUE OF LEARNING FOR CONDUCT

Cicero's defence of culture is not typically Roman. The sterling virtues noted under IV were generally approved by his countrymen; it is his contribution to show how learning may enhance such virtues.

1. Learning produces a finer quality of virtue; it sets before us noble examples of good men.
VII.15. *atque idem contendo...existere.*
VII.16. *M. Catonem...contulisset.*
VI.14. *nam nisi multorum...obiecissem.*
VI.14. *quam multas...conformabam.*
2. Learning is directly useful to skill and professional success.
VI.13. *atque hoc ideo...periculo defuit.*
3. Learning is the best employment for one's leisure.
VI.13. *qua re quis...sumpsero.*
VII.16. *quod si non hic tantus fructus...rusticantur.*

VI. THE BEAUTY OF FRIENDSHIP

A long enduring friendship is evidence of noble qualities in the friends.

- III.5. *et erat hoc non solum...senectuti.*
XII.31. *quare conservate...vetustate.*

VII. THE PROPER OBJECT OF AMBITION

Praise and remembrance honorably won give a real immortality.

- XI.26. *trahimur omnes...ducitur.*
XI.28. *iam me vobis...confitebor.*
XI.28. *nullam enim virtus...adaequandam.*
XII.30. *ego vero omnia...memoriam sempiternam.*

VIII. THE SOUL AND THE UNSEEN WORLD

1. Personal immortality a great hope
XII.30. *haec vero sive a meo sensu...speque delector.*
2. The soul superior to the body
VIII.17. *ergo ille corporis...neglegemus.*
XII.30. *an statuas et imagines...politam.*
3. The poetic gift comes from God
VIII.18. *poetam natura ipsa...videantur.*

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SERVICE BUREAU SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT YEAR

Teachers who do not live in large cities often ask if they can borrow pictures useful in the Latin work. Why should the Service Bureau not keep on hand sets of photographs, postals, etc., dealing with such topics as the city of ancient Rome, Roman life, Roman history, the background of the Caesar, Cicero, and Vergil work, which can be sent out as loans? Such an enterprise would necessitate contributions in the way of money or prints from private collections. For \$3.50 a fairly satisfactory set could be made up from lists of inexpensive pictures now in the files of the Service Bureau. Persons who prefer to send pictures from their own collection rather than money should keep in mind the fact that many views which appeal to a mature person with a background of scholarship are not always those which young people appreciate. Ruins of buildings are, as a rule, far less effective than reconstructions, and a torso is less satisfactory than a statue in a fair state of preservation.

Many persons are unable for various reasons to secure for their libraries certain books which are highly significant both for the information that they contain and the inspiration that they give. Examples of this type of book (to quote only a few) are *The Legacy of Rome* (edited by CYRIL BAILEY); TENNEY FRANK's *History of Rome*; TORSTEN PETERSSON's *Cicero*, and T. RICE HOLMES' *Roman Republic* (certain chapters). A scholarly digest of high points in such a form that it could be put in the Service Bureau Package Libraries would be of great assistance in schools where funds for the purchase of books are limited. Here is an opportunity for coöperative work on the part of some lover of the classics who has a certain amount of leisure at his command.

SURVIVALS IN ENGLISH WORDS OF ROMAN ADMINISTRATION

The art of government draws many of its terms from the stock bequeathed to us by the Romans, some of them with picturesque associations of which their modern users are not even dimly conscious. The civil servant who draws his salary does not, we may be sure, connect the name with the "salt-money" which the Romans took as typical of the subsistence-allowances paid to their officials; the politician who advocates a change in fiscal policy never travels back in thought to the sealed baskets (*fisci*) in which the treasure of the provinces was conveyed to Rome; nor does the holder of the municipal office reflect that his title recalls those half-assimilated subjects of Rome who shouldered the burden of citizenship (*munus, capere*) but were as yet debarred from its higher privileges.

H. STUART JONES, *The Legacy of Rome, Chapter dealing with Administration.* Oxford University Press

21th
2nd heague
3-6-1933

CHARACTERISTICS OF CAESAR AS SEEN IN HIS COMMENTARIES

"Cut of this brief outline what is apparent for the study of Caesar's character? The first and overwhelming characteristic is his remarkable *ENERGY*. We gather this from his rapid journey north from Rome; he covered ninety miles a day, according to Plutarch. He fortified the nineteen mile stretch of the Rhone in some two weeks with only one legion, a feat which speaks volumes also for his control of his troops. Within two months he enrolled 12,000 men, united them with 18,000 already assembled, equipped the whole number and led them through difficult mountain passes, fighting some part of the way against hostile mountaineers. He also transported this large body of troops over the Arar in one day. The man was a perfect miracle of energy.

* * *

The next point that stands out is his *UNSCRUPULOUSNESS*. He unblushingly states that he designed to trick the Helvetians while he made preparations to resist them. This could no doubt be defended on the ground of military expediency, as 'a measure of self-defense', but a people that poured such scorn on the Punica Fides of their ancient enemies ought to have kept its own skirts clear. Even in this connection Caesar lays stress upon Ariovistus's treachery to the envoys sent by Caesar; this treachery was a measure of the same kind. It is noteworthy that we get no intimation that the Helvetians had any suspicion of Caesar's bad faith.

We may also admire Caesar's *ASTUTENESS*. In dealing with foreign peoples the Roman motto had been, as has been also the motto of the English, *divide et impera*. This explains the relations of the Aedui to Caesar, and the attitude of Dumnorix. It also shows the cause of Caesar's manner of dealing with Diviciacus and his brother, and prepares us for the dissimulation which Caesar shows in the civil contest, and which, as a matter of fact, he displayed throughout his whole career.

His *LACK* of *MAGNANIMITY* is also shown in this same episode. He ostensibly is reconciled with Dumnorix; he tells him that the past is forgotten, and warns him to be true for the future. But he does not trust him, he does not appeal to his feelings of honor; he lets him go, and keeps him, as we find out afterwards, in his same office, as captain of the Aeduan cavalry, but he surrounds him with spies and keeps himself informed as to his every action. This cannot have escaped the notice of Dumnorix, and must have infuriated him so much as to nullify completely the effect of the reconciliation.

* * *

We should not fail to note the *CRUELTY* of Caesar, as shown by his treatment of the Verbigeni. The phrase 'treated as enemies' can be understood only in one way, that these unfortunates were all put to death. These 6,000 form but a small fraction of the enormous loss of 258,000 which Caesar's cold summary at the end shows to have befallen the Helvetians, but the cold-blooded way in which the circumstance is recorded rouses our indignation much more than the fact of the larger number. We can fully understand and sympathize with Cato's motion that Caesar be surrendered to the Gauls in return for his monstrous inhumanity towards them. Other instances of this cruelty, again defended on the plea of military necessity, can be cited, especially the striking penalty inflicted on the followers of Vercingetorix, who were all sold as slaves, after there had been, as we learn from several places, an enormous slaughter of the Gauls.

* * *

A sudden panic seized the troops on hearing of the approaching conflict with the Germans, a panic which came very near mutiny in the case of some soldiers, and which portended complete disaster to the campaign. I will say nothing of the wonderfully picturesque quality of Chapter 39, the thoughts and actions of the men under the influence of this overmastering fear; I am

more interested in the speech which Caesar made to the officers when he learned of the state of affairs. This, though couched in the indirect form, displays even in this form the eloquence and the skill which made Caesar such a power among men. The tone at the outset is one of proud rebuke that the officers should dare to assume the right to judge the actions of the commander-in-chief, or to question his competency. This tone we find characteristic of all of Caesar's utterances. It shows his extraordinary *CONFIDENCE IN HIMSELF*, the fatalistic pride, about which so many stories are told. In the present case, it has the effect of keeping the control of the meeting within Caesar's own hands, and he never lets the complaints of the men become vocal. After this rebuke, he proceeds to reason with them, to appeal to their common sense and experience, to show them the foolishness of their panic, and from the history of the past to draw not only encouragement but also assurance for the future. He subtly leads them to compare themselves with the Germans and with the Gauls, whom Ariovistus had defeated. Thus, having triumphed over their fears and having aroused their confidence, he puts the finishing touch to his plea by appealing to their spirit of rivalry, by his reference to the tenth legion, which he frankly confesses he had pampered. No more convincing example of Caesar's personal power can be found than this episode.

* * *

It is almost unnecessary to lay stress upon Caesar's personal *BRAVERY*. At the beginning of the battle with the Helvetians Caesar had first his own horse then those of all his officers removed in order that, by making the peril of all equal, he might do away with any hope of escape in case of defeat. This act was a confession that the situation was desperate, but it was also an assurance that the general was ready to face every danger that he asked his men to face. This trait has been characteristic of many another great general, and springs not only from scorn of personal risk, but also from the soundest of military principles. Caesar displays his personal courage over and over again, and whether it proceeded from fatalism or merely from reasons of policy, it did much to endear him to his soldiers.

* * *

I hope it will be evident from what I have said that the Commentaries furnish our best material for the study of Caesar's character. Of course it will not do to take everything that he displays in the course of his work without the proper qualifications. Everything ancient, as well as every ancient personality, must be interpreted in the light of the ancient conditions and standards. If we do not do this, we are apt to fall into the same mistake that we meet with in W. WADDELL's work, *Caesar's Character*, or in *Defense of the Standard of Mankind*, where a serious attempt is made to prove that Caesar was "undoubtedly one of the greatest monsters that ever lived." We can not get from the Commentaries much light upon his more human side, his feeling for his friends, and for his family. We can get inklings occasionally of his attitude to his officers, but we must go to other sources, especially Cicero's Letters, to be able to draw a complete portrait of Caesar."

Quotations from an article by GONZALEZ LODGE, Teachers College, entitled, "Caesar as Seen in His Works." Published in the *Classical Weekly* for January, 1917.

A CHARADE

My first for naught has been employed,
A verb the thrifty must avoid,
And you and I must make my last;
When Vulcan from my whole was cast,
He had my second ever after,
Provoking all the gods to laughter.

WILLIAM BELLAMY, *A Second Century of Charades*
Houghton Mifflin Co.

BOOKS

Orator Latinus—Selections for Recitation in Both Latin and English, by ANTHONY GEYSER, Campion College; Allyn and Bacon, Boston, \$1.00. This book should prove very useful for Latin Clubs.

The Outline of Literature and Art, by JOHN DRINKWATER and SIR WILLIAM ORPEN, five volumes (sold separately for \$4.50); G. P. Putnam's Sons, N. Y. These books contain 1000 illustrations and 50 color plates. Volume I of *The Outline of Literature* contains material of special interest to the teacher of the classics.

Latin for Lawyers (contains a course in Latin by E. HILTON JACKSON); Sweet and Maxwell, 3 Chancery Lane, London, 1915.

Latin teachers will be glad to know that a new edition of BEESLY'S *Catiline, Clodius, and Tiberius* is about to be issued by G. E. Stechert, New York. The first essay in this book presents a defense of Catiline and is a welcome antidote for many pupils to Cicero's point of view. The price of this book is \$3.00.

Easy Oral Latin—A Series of Latin Episodes and a Latin Play, arranged for oral practice in Junior High School classes, by P. J. DOWNING, Lawrence-Smith School, 166 East 70th St., New York City; price \$1.00. To be published shortly.

Outlines of Roman History, by MARY AGNES HAMILTON; Oxford University Press, N. Y., 1914; \$85.

Ancient Rome: The Lives of Great Men, by MARY AGNES HAMILTON; Oxford University Press, N. Y.; \$85.

The Writers of Rome, by J. WIGHT DUFF; Oxford University Press, N. Y., 1923; \$1.00.

Roman Britain, by R. G. COLLINGWOOD; Oxford University Press, N. Y., 1923; \$1.00.

The Growth of Rome, by P. E. MATHESON; Oxford University Press, N. Y., 1922; \$1.00.

Reddenda Minora, by C. S. JERRAM; Oxford University Press, N. Y. (Contains some easy Latin stories for use in oral Latin.)

FOR THE BULLETIN BOARD

The Roman catacombs where so many of the early Christians were buried contain many interesting Latin inscriptions which add much to the pleasure of the traveler who knows his Latin. Here are two of them:

1. RUTUNDULA-IN PACE

QUE-VIXIT-M-XI-DXX

IN-PACE

A-DEO-ET-SANCTIS-ACCE (P) TA

"The little Rutunda, in peace—a girl who lived eleven months and twenty days. Received by God and the saints."

2. M-AUR-VICTOR-ULPIAE-SIRICAE

CONIUGI-RARISSIMAE-FECIT-IN-PACE

"Marcus Aurelius Victor made this for Ulpia Sirica, a very rare wife. In peace."

Comment: The fact that the spelling is sometimes incorrect in such inscriptions only shows that many of them were made by people who were poor and illiterate.

The course for the training of Latin teachers at the University of Texas in the summer session will be in charge of Miss Lourania Miller.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST

At a meeting of the Advisory Committee of the American Classical League in New York on April 14-16, the report of the Classical Survey was submitted for discussion. It is hoped that the final report may be in printed form and ready for distribution early in the coming school year.

A limited number of Latin Package Libraries are now in circulation through Extension Divisions in the following states: Virginia, Texas, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Arizona, Tennessee, and Indiana.

The Service Bureau has the names of classical teachers in secondary schools in the states listed below. Under no circumstances is this information available for commercial purposes. But copies can be made in the interests of Latin upon payment for clerical service.

Alabama, Connecticut, Washington, D. C., Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia.

The Loyola University Press, 1076 Roosevelt Road, Chicago, is publishing under the name of *The Loyola Educational Digest* cards (8 by 5 inches) containing bibliographies, abstracts of important articles, reviews of books, and in general such material as will be useful to one who desires to keep informed of the latest developments in education. The subscription price ranges from \$3.00 to \$4.00 according to the quality of the paper used in the cards. Latin teachers will find much that is interesting in the material already published—notably the cards dealing with educational measurements. These contain among other points definitions for the layman of terms which are ordinarily obscure to anyone except the person who is working in this special field.

Miss Maude Van Cleave, of Kansas City, is making an analysis of the *Aeneid* with a view to summarizing its contribution to the subject of Roman religion. Her results will be put in such a form that they will render concrete aid to the hard-pressed Latin teacher who is trying to emphasize for her Vergil pupils certain outstanding points.

PICTURES

The pictures which have been listed in *LATIN NOTES* from time to time as being available in Rome, will be imported by A. G. Seiler, 1224 Amsterdam Ave., New York City, in the case of orders amounting to not less than \$3.00. Subscribers to the *NOTES* may write directly to this firm which will be supplied with Service Bureau lists. It will of course take some weeks to fill the orders.

The Metropolitan Museum in New York sells photographs of certain reconstructions of classical buildings, notably the House of Pansa at Pompeii (interior and exterior), the Pantheon, and the Parthenon. The 8 by 10 size costs 40 cents. Postals containing the last two as well as the arch of Constantine may be secured for 5 cents each. Sets of postals containing six cards dealing with Greek art and other classical subjects are sold for 15 cents. Circulars giving full information may be secured from the Museum.

Several sets of postals interesting to classical teachers are published by the British Museum and sold in America by the Oxford University Press, N. Y. for 80 cents: Set 29, Greek and Roman Life; Set 49, Portraits of the Roman Emperors; Set 47, Greek and Roman Reliefs.